

## **Summary of FY 2009 Revisions to the FY 2008 Performance Measure Business Definitions**

Overall the Performance Measure Business Definitions for FY 2009 are unchanged from FY 2008, with a few exceptions:

1. As of January 31, 2009, CTA-GLC was no longer available for selection as a national program. Beginning FY 2009, CTA-GEN and CTA-GLC performance in PRS reports has been consolidated under CTA-GEN. Page 3.
2. Measure 1.02: For FY 2009, performance data for *New and updated soils mapped* is not obtained through NCSS (soils database), but entered directly into PRS using the new PRS Soils data entry screen. Page 11.
3. Measure 1.10: *Cross Wind Ridges* practice code 589A has been updated to 588 in the list of eligible practices. Page 12.
4. Measure 2.20: Revised the business rule on eligible land uses for Practice code 533, *Pumping Plants*. Practice code 533 is eligible on cropland and hay land only. Page 21.
5. Updated Data Steward contacts.

# **Performance Measure Definitions**

**FY2007 – FY2010**

March, 2009

## **Introduction & Overview**

The NRCS web-based performance measurement approach, established in 1998, was intended to strengthen the linkage between annual performance measures and strategic objectives, and enhance data quality and accessibility. The longer term vision was to: 1) Make performance reporting transparent to field staff by “harvesting” data from conservation plans, and 2) engage the scientific community to translate NRCS’ planned and applied practices into environmental outcomes. Since that time, Agency investments in business tools, modeling, and information technology has created new opportunities for implementing a transparent system that effectively and efficiently reports progress toward agency strategic goals. The annual performance measures defined in this document represent the next step toward this vision.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Agency’s annual performance measures is to provide the link between the day-to-day activities on the landscape and the agency’s long-term strategic objectives, as outlined in the NRCS Strategic Plan, 2005 – 2010. Annual measures reflect the annual increment of progress toward the long-term performance targets. These annual measures provide the foundation for the agency’s annual performance budget formulation, budget and performance integration (BPI) reporting, and Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) process. Essential data elements gathered through these measures make it possible to meet agency reporting requirements, from Civil Rights reports to congressional inquiries.

### **Data Quality**

NRCS has a responsibility to ensure that our data meet high quality standards. Regular review of performance data by users and oversight staff throughout the year will help ensure the accuracy of Agency performance data. Identifying and correcting data anomalies on a regular basis can minimize the end of year data quality review and attestation task, result in better quality data throughout the year, and improve the utility of agency performance data for a variety of users and uses. Discrepancies left uncorrected cannot be altered once end-of-year performance is locked in PRS.

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Quality of Information Guidelines provide general guidance to all USDA agencies on quality of information delivered to all users within and outside the agency. Ensuring the quality of Agency performance data is a first step in assuring that agency use of these data in information products meets these guidelines.

### **Data Entry Points**

Data entry is primarily through the appropriate automated business tools, Customer Service Toolkit, ProTracts, or POINTS. However, there may be instances when implementation action needs to be reported directly through Performance Results System (PRS) screens. In addition, several measures can only be reported through PRS. These instances of specialized reporting should diminish over time, as business tool development continues. Specific data entry points are noted in the measure definitions.

Basic customer information, including customer name and status (race, gender, ethnicity, etc.) will be entered and maintained through the Service Center Information Management System (SCIMS) application and linked to the reported performance for that customer.

### **Reporting Frequency**

Reporting is relatively automatic for performance data harvested from the automated business tools. However, in instances where progress must be entered using PRS screens or program tracking business tools, performance should be updated regularly as reportable items are completed. National level performance reports are issued weekly for top leadership review. These reports contain Fiscal Year (FY) performance data submitted through the prior week. Thus, regular reporting will ensure that leadership is operating based on the most current and appropriate information.

### **Recurring Practices**

Recurring practices are only reported the first year they are applied. It is recognized they will be applied according to the conservation plan practice schedule in future years for the life of the practice. When recurring practices are revised, triggering a substantial plan revision, and then applied, it is considered newly planned and applied and is reported. The benefits of all applied practices, recurring or not, are captured in long-term outcome reporting.

### **Conservation Practice List**

Performance for measures 1.10, 2.10, 2.20, 3.10, 3.20 and 3.30 is based upon the application of specific conservation practices. A select list of practices for each measure is included within the measure description. Practice names and codes are taken directly from the National Handbook of Conservation Practices. Legacy practice codes are included in table lists and shown in *italics*.

### **Key Conservation Programs**

The Agency is charged to fulfill a variety of objectives and is funded by Congress to address them. Although all Agency activities are important and we use performance measures to track progress for many of them, specific programs and associated performance measures are viewed as critical for accounting Agency performance and meeting the Agency's strategic objectives. These measures are tracked by the Department, OMB and Congress to assess Agency performance. Programs listed under **Key Conservation Programs** indicate those with established Budget Performance Integration (BPI) national targets.

### **Termination of CTA-GLC as National Program**

Beginning in FY 2009 all CTA based performance, regardless of land use, is assigned to CTA-GEN. Both CTA-GEN and CTA-GLC are internal NRCS designations within the CTA program, based on land use and not separate and distinct national programs. Since February 1, 2009 national program designation CTA-GLC is no longer available for use. Practices planned under CTA-GLC prior to February 1 will remain under CTA-GLC. No practice conversions from CTA-GLC to CTA-GEN are required. Previously planned practices linked to CTA-GLC will be automatically added to CTA-GEN performance when applied and counted toward CTA-GEN performance targets where appropriate.

### **Land Uses**

Certain annual measures apply only to certain land uses, as noted in the definitions. These land use definitions are consistent with the official NRCS designations contained in the National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH\_600.31 (c)), and used in the Customer Service Toolkit application. The following land uses are used in one or more of the performance measures:

- **Crop** - Land used primarily for the production of field crops or orchard crops alone or in association with sod crops.
- **Hay** - Land on which perennial plants are managed and harvested for hay. (Annual plants planted for hay, and forage crops in short-term rotation are cropland.)
- **Forest** - Land on which the primary vegetation is forest (climax, natural, or introduced plant community) and use is primarily for production of wood products.
- **Grazed Forest** - Forest land that produces understory vegetation that is used for the production of livestock.
- **Grazed Range** - Rangeland that is used primarily for the production of domestic livestock; including native plant communities and those seeded to native or introduced species, or naturalized by introduced species that are ecologically managed using range management principles.
- **Native or Naturalized Pasture** - Forest land that is used primarily for the production of forage for grazing by livestock rather than for the production of wood products. Overstory trees are removed or managed to promote the native or introduced understory vegetation occurring on the site. This vegetation is managed for its forage value through the use of grazing management principles.
- **Pasture** - Grazing lands composed of introduced or domesticated native forage species that are used primarily for the production of domestic livestock. They receive periodic renovation and/or cultural treatments, such as tillage, fertilization, mowing, weed control, and may be irrigated. They are not in rotation with crops.

### Performance Measure Numbering System

The annual performance measures are numbered to align with the new agency strategic plan according to the table below:

Measure Number		Strategic Plan Goal
Series	Sub-Series	
0		Multiple Strategic Goals
1		High Quality, Productive Soils
	1.1	Cropland Soil Quality
2		Clean and Abundant Water
	2.1	Water Quality
	2.2	Water Conservation
3		Healthy Plant and Animal Communities
	3.1	Grassland, Rangeland, and Forest Ecosystems
	3.2	Working Lands and Waters for Wildlife
	3.3	Wetlands
4		Clean Air - reserved
5		Adequate Energy - reserved
6		Working Farms and Ranch Lands
	6.1	Viable Agricultural Sector and Natural Resource Quality

**Measure Title ..... Page**

Measure: 0.10: Conservation plans written, acres .....	6
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Measure: 1.10: Cropland with conservation applied to improve soil quality, acres.....	11
Measure: 2.00: Water supply forecasts issued, number.....	13
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Measure: 2.13: Long-term contracts completed during the fiscal year (all measures installed) for the purpose of water quality improvement, number. ....	18
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Measure: 3.10: Grazing and forest land with conservation applied to protect and improve the resource base, acres.....	25
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Measure: 6.10: Farmland, forest land, and wetlands protected by conservation easement, acres .....	29
Measure: 6.11: Prime, unique, or important farmland protected by conservation easements from conversion to non-agricultural uses, acres .....	30
Measure: 6.12: Land and water resources benefitted by RC&D projects, acres .....	31
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## ***Measure: 0.10: Conservation plans written, acres***

**Definition:** Conservation plans developed or revised during the fiscal year to treat soil, water, air, plant, and animal resource concerns. Conservation planning is conducted in accordance with the National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH 180.600). All land uses are eligible. Performance is reported in acres.

**Strategic Plan Outcomes:** This measure is essential to achieving the agency's outcomes for soil quality, water quality and quantity, plant and animal communities, air, energy, and farm and ranch viability and natural resource quality.

### **Calculation**

This measure is calculated as the land unit acreage in new or revised conservation plans where:

- the plan approval date is within the current fiscal year,
- at least one conservation practice was planned,
- 

### **Business Rules for PRS Reporting**

All conservation planning and application will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant agency policy and technical guidance, and using agency approved business tools to conduct these activities, as appropriate. The following business rules apply:

1. The acreage of land units are reported only for the fiscal year in which the planning work is accomplished.
2. Land units planned are counted once toward this performance measure. Revised plans are counted provided a new plan approval date is assigned in Toolkit.
3. A Revised Plan is one that requires substantial change to the extent that a new conservation plan needs to be generated. These changes are by mutual agreement of NRCS and the client and the revised plan is signed by the client. Substantial changes include changes in land unit boundaries, resource management system (RMS), the suite of practices included in the RMS, technology, or type of enterprise (see NPPH, 600.70, Plan Revision).
4. The conservation plan practice implementation schedule may include current or future fiscal years.
5. All land uses are eligible.
6. Planned acreage is reported by program using the following hierarchy:
  - If any planned practice is reported as CRP, credit the land unit acres to CRP.
  - If any planned practice is reported as WRP, credit the land unit acreage to WRP.
  - If any planned practice is reported as HFRP, report the land unit acreage as HFRP.
  - For all other new or revised conservation plans, regardless of program, credit the land unit acres to CTA.

### **Data Entry Point(s)**

Customer Service Toolkit  
PRS

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***Measure: 0.20: Watershed or area-wide conservation plans developed, number***

**Definition:** Watershed or area-wide plans developed and approved. A watershed or area-wide conservation plan is developed with stakeholders or clients for a watershed or other geographic area. The watershed or area-wide conservation plan addresses all identified resource problems, contains alternative solutions that meet the minimum quality criteria for each resource, and addresses applicable laws and regulations. These plans must include specific, quantifiable conservation goals and milestones for natural resource benefits. These plans cover an area composed of multiple land ownerships and operations with common and interdependent natural resource concerns, and are on a larger scale than site-specific plans. Performance is reported in numbers.

Eligible plans include:

- Watershed or area-wide conservation plans developed in accordance with the National Planning Procedures Handbook (CTA)
- PL-566 Watershed Plans developed under the Watershed Surveys and Planning Program (PL-06)
- Resource Conservation and Development Project Plans that address natural resource concerns, in accordance with the Conservation Programs Manual 440\_Part 513\_Subpart C\_513.26. (RC&D)

**Strategic Plan Outcomes:** This measure is essential to achieving the agency's outcomes for soil quality, water quality and quantity, plant and animal communities, air, energy, and farm and ranch viability and natural resource quality.

**Calculation**

This measure is calculated as the sum of the number of completed plans per individual program: CTA, PI-566 and RC&D.

**Business Rules for PRS Reporting**

1. Final, approved plans are reported. Interim steps, drafts, data collection, or assessment efforts are not reportable. The approving authority varies; it may be a Federal, State, or local agency, conservation district, watershed association, or an ad hoc group.
2. The Plan must be approved in the current fiscal year.

3. Subject to rules 1 and 2 above, an area-wide or watershed plan can be reported even if it is a subset of a larger area-wide plan previously reported. Conversely, an area-wide plan may be reported if it includes a subset area previously reported.

**Data Entry Point(s)**

PRS

Watershed POINTS

RC&D POINTS

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***Measure: 1.00: Digital soil surveys (SSURGO) made available, number.***

**Definition:** Published SSURGO-certified soil surveys available on the NRCS Soil Data Mart. Performance is reported in numbers.

**Strategic Plan Outcome:** The quality of intensively used soils is maintained or enhanced to enable sustained production of a safe, healthy, and abundant food supply.

**Calculation**

This measure is calculated as the total number of soil surveys that are SSURGO-certified, published within the fiscal year, and made available on the NRCS Soil Data Mart for the first time.

**Business Rules for PRS Reporting**

1. A soil survey must be SSURGO-certified, published, and available through the NRCS Soil Data Mart.

**Data Entry Point(s)**

Soil Data Warehouse

**Data Steward (Business Area Expert)**

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***Measure: 1.01: New or updated Web Soil Surveys, number.***

**Definition:** New or updated soil surveys published to the standards and specifications of the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS), and made available in Portable Document Format (PDF) on Web Soil Survey. Performance is reported in numbers.

**Strategic Plan Outcome:** The quality of intensively used soils is maintained or enhanced to enable sustained production of a safe, healthy, and abundant food supply.

**Calculation**

This measure is calculated as the total number of soil surveys published within the current fiscal year in a Portable Document Format (PDF) on Web Soil Survey.

**Business Rules for PRS Reporting**

1. New or updated soil surveys that meet National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) standards and specifications are reported.
2. Surveys must be placed on the Web Soil Survey during the current fiscal year in PDF format, with an Edition Date of the current or previous calendar year.
3. Surveys counted in previous years are not reported. Surveys counted in previous years include those placed on Web Soil Survey in a previous year with edition dates of 2004 or later, or surveys reported in NASIS as having had maps sent to the printer (obligating funds for printing through GPO) in FY2001 or later.

**Data Entry Point(s)**

Soil Survey Scheduler

Soil Data Warehouse

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***Measure: 1.02: Soil surveys mapped or updated, acres.***

**Definition:** Initial or updated soil surveys with accompanying field documentation mapped or updated within the fiscal year. All acreage meets the standards and specifications of the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS). Performance is reported in acres.

**Strategic Plan Outcome:** The quality of intensively used soils is maintained or enhanced to enable sustained production of a safe, healthy, and abundant food supply.

**Calculation**

This measure is calculated as the sum of acres of soil surveys mapped or updated within the current fiscal year.

**Business Rules for PRS Reporting**

1. Whole acres mapped or updated that meet the standards and specifications of the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS).

**Data Entry Point(s)**

PRS

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**Measure: 1.10: Cropland with conservation applied to improve soil quality, acres**

**Definition:** Cropland and hay land on which at least one selected conservation practice to improve soil quality has been applied during the fiscal year. Cropland and hay land uses are eligible. Performance is reported in acres.

**Strategic Plan Outcome:** The quality of intensively used soils is maintained or enhanced to enable sustained production of a safe, healthy, and abundant food supply.

**Selected conservation practices:**

Practice (units)	Code	Practice (units)	Code
Alley Cropping (ac)	311	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed (ac); <i>Residue Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till (ac) (329A);</i> <i>Residue Management – Direct Seed (ac) (777);</i> <i>Long Term No Till (ac) (778)</i>	329
Atmospheric Resources Quality Management (ac)	370		
Conservation Cover (ac)	327		
Conservation Crop Rotation (ac)	328	Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till (ac); <i>Residue Management, Ridge Till (ac) (329C)</i>	346
Contour Buffer Strips (ac)	332	Residue Management, Seasonal (ac)	344
Contour Farming (ac)	330	Riparian Forest Buffer (ac)	391
Contour Orchard and Other Fruit Areas (ac)	331	Row Arrangement (ac)	557
Cover Crop (ac)	340	Salinity and Sodic Soil Management (ac); <i>Land Reconstruction, Brine Damaged Land (ac) (773);</i> <i>Soil Salinity Management – Nonirrigated (ac) (571)</i>	610
Critical Area Planting (ac)	342		
Cross Wind Ridges (ac) <i>Cross Wind Ridges (ac) (589A)</i>	588		
Cross Wind Trap Strips (ac)	589C		
Deep Tillage (ac)	324	Silvopasture Establishment (ac);	381

Diversion (ft)	362		<i>Silvopasture Establishment (791);</i>	
Field Border (ft)	386		<i>Silvopasture Management (ac) (792)</i>	
Forage Harvest Management (ac)	511		Stripcropping (ac);	585
Grade Stabilization Structure (no.)	410		<i>Cross Wind Stripcropping (ac) (589B)</i>	
Grassed Waterway (ac)	412		<i>Stripcropping, Field (ac) (586)</i>	
Herbaceous Wind Barriers (ft)	603			
Irrigation Water Management (ac)	449		Subsurface Drain (ft)	606
Lined Waterway or Outlet (ft)	468		Terrace (ft)	600
Mulching (ac)	484		Underground Outlet (ft)	620
Nutrient Management (ac)	590		Waste Utilization (ac)	633
Pasture & Hay Planting (ac)	512		Water and Sediment Control Basin (no.)	638
Pest Management (ac)	595		Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (ft)	380
Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till (ac); <i>Residue Management, Mulch Till (ac) (329B)</i>	345		Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (ft)	650

### Key Conservation Programs:

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

### Calculation

This measure is calculated as the land unit acreage in conservation plans where:

- the land use is cropland or hay land,
- at least one selected conservation practice was applied, and
- the practice application date is within the current fiscal year.

### Business Rules for PRS Reporting

All conservation planning and application will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant agency policy and technical guidance, and using agency approved business tools to conduct these activities, as appropriate. The following business rules apply:

1. The acreage reported under this performance measure is only for the fiscal year in which the performance is accomplished.
2. The total land unit acreage is reported when one or more selected practices are applied. Selected practices may have different measurement units (e.g., acres, number, feet, etc.) and may be placed on all or part of the land unit. To address this variability, the total acres of the land unit are counted toward the performance measure.
3. Land unit acreage is counted only once per program per fiscal year, although multiple selected practices may be applied.
4. Where more than one program is used to apply selected practices on the same land unit within a single fiscal year, each program is credited with the full land unit acreage.

5. Total acres reported in PRS Section 6 Reports reflect the unique land unit acreage where one or more selected conservation practices were applied during the fiscal year to improve soil quality.
6. Eligible land uses are cropland and hay land.

**Data Entry Point(s)**

Customer Service Toolkit  
ProTracts  
PRS

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***Measure: 2.00: Water supply forecasts issued, number***

**Definition:** Water supply forecasts issued by the Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting program. Performance is reported in numbers.

**Strategic Plan Outcomes:** The quality of surface waters and ground water is improved and maintained to protect human health, support a healthy environment, and encourage a productive landscape. Water is conserved and protected to ensure an abundant and reliable supply for the Nation.

**Calculation**

This measure is calculated as the total number of water supply forecasts issued within the current fiscal year.

**Data Entry Point(s)**

PRS

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**Measure: 2.10: Land with conservation applied to improve water quality, acres**

**Definition:** Land on which at least one selected conservation practice to improve water quality has been applied during the fiscal year. All land uses are eligible. Performance is reported in acres.

**Strategic Plan Outcome:** The quality of surface waters and ground water is improved and maintained to protect human health, support a healthy environment, and encourage a productive landscape.

**Selected conservation practices:**

Practice (units)	Code	Practice (units)	Code
Access road (ft)	560	Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/strip till/Direct seed (ac); <i>Residue Management, No Till/Strip Till (ac) (329A); Residue Management–Direct Seed (ac) (777); Long Term No Till (ac) (778)</i>	329
Alley Cropping (ac)	311		
Animal Mortality Facility (no.)	316		
Atmospheric Resources Quality Management (ac)	370		
Brush Management (ac)	314	Residue and Tillage Management, <i>Ridge Till (ac) (329C)</i>	346
Channel Bank Vegetation (ac)	322		
Closure of Waste Impoundments (no.)	360	Riparian Forest Buffer (ac)	391
Conservation Cover (ac)	327	Riparian Herbaceous Cover (ac)	390
Conservation Crop Rotation (ac)	328	Roof Runoff Structure (no.)	558
Constructed Wetland (ac)	656	Salinity and Sodic Soil Management (ac); <i>Land Reconstruction, Brine Damaged Land (ac) (773); Soil Salinity Management: Non-irrigated (ac) (571)</i>	610
Contour Buffer Strips (ac)	332		
Contour Farming (ac)	330		
Contour Orchard and Other Fruit Areas (ac)	331		
Cover Crop (ac)	340	Sediment Basin (no.)	350
Critical Area Planting (ac)	342	Streambank and Shoreline Protection (ft)	580
Deep Tillage (ac)	324	Stream Crossing (no.); <i>Stream Crossing (no.) (728)</i>	578
Drainage Water Management (ac)	554	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (ac)	395
Filter Strip (ac)	393	Stripcropping (ac); <i>Cross Wind Stripcropping (ac) (589B)</i>	585
Forest Stand Improvement (ac)	666		

Grassed Waterway (ac)	412	<i>Stripcropping, Field (ac) (586)</i>	
Heavy Use Area Protection (ac); <i>Controlled Livestock Lounging Area (ac) (711)</i>	561	Terrace (ft)	600
		Tree/Shrub Establishment (ac)	612
		Waste Storage Facility (no.)	313
Irrigation System, Microirrigation (ac)	441	Waste Treatment (ac); <i>BioFilter (no.) (795); Milking Center Wastewater Treatment System (no.) (719); Storm Water Wet Detention/ Chemical Treatment System (no.) (787)</i>	629
Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery (no.)	447		
Irrigation Water Management (ac)	449		
Land Reconstruction, Abandoned Mined Land (ac)	543	Waste Treatment Lagoon (no.)	359
Land Reconstruction, Currently Mined Land (ac)	544	Wastewater Treatment Strip (ac)	635
Manure Transfer (no.)	634	Waste Utilization (ac)	633
Mulching (ac)	484	Well Decommissioning (no.)	351
Nutrient Management (ac)	590	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (ft)	380
Pest Management (ac)	595	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (ft)	650
Prescribed Grazing (ac); <i>Prescribed Grazing (528A)</i>	528	Wetland Creation (ac)	658
Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till (ac); <i>Residue Management, Mulch Till (ac) (329B)</i>	345	Wetland Enhancement (ac)	659
		Wetland Restoration (ac)	657

### Calculation

This measure is calculated as the land unit acreage in conservation plans where:

- at least one selected conservation practice was applied, and
- the practice application date is within the current fiscal year.

### Business Rules for PRS Reporting

All conservation planning and application will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant agency policy and technical guidance, and using agency approved business tools to conduct these activities, as appropriate. The following business rules apply:

1. The acreage reported under this performance measure is only for the fiscal year in which the performance is accomplished.
2. The total land unit acreage is reported when one or more selected practices are applied. Selected practices may have different measurement units (e.g., acres, number, feet, etc.) and may be placed on all or part of the land unit. To address this variability, the total acres of the land unit are counted toward the performance measure.
3. Land unit acreage is counted only once per program per fiscal year, although multiple selected practices may be applied.

4. Where more than one program is used to apply selected practices on the same land unit within a single fiscal year, each program is credited with the full land unit acreage.
5. Total acres reported in PRS Section 6 Reports reflect the unique land unit acreage where one or more selected conservation practices were applied during the fiscal year to improve water quality.
6. All land uses are eligible.

**Data Entry Point(s)**

Customer Service Toolkit  
ProTracts  
PRS

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***Measure: 2.11: Comprehensive nutrient management plans (CNMP) written, number***

**Definition:** Comprehensive nutrient management plans (CNMP) developed or revised within the current fiscal year. CNMPs are planned in accordance with the National Planning Procedures Handbook, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning Technical Guidance (NPPH\_600.5). Performance is reported in numbers.

**Strategic Plan Outcome:** The quality of surface waters and ground water is improved and maintained to protect human health, support a healthy environment, and encourage a productive landscape.

**Calculation**

This measure is calculated as the sum of CNMPs entered into the Field Level Measures section on the PRS Data Entry website during the current fiscal year.

**Business Rules for PRS Reporting**

All conservation planning and application will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant agency policy and technical guidance, and using agency approved business tools to conduct these activities, as appropriate. The following business rules apply:

1. The performance reported under this measure is only for the fiscal year in which the performance is accomplished.
2. CNMP plans, designated within PRS, must have a plan approval date within the current fiscal year and one or more conservation practices planned.



3. CNMPs Written are counted only once toward this performance measure unless the plan is revised as a result of significant changes to the CNMP and a new plan approval date is assigned in Toolkit and PRS.
4. Use the CNMP Written screen in the Field Level Measures section on the PRS Data Entry website to assign a program to each CNMP. If charging CTA report the CNMP written as CTA. If charging EQIP, report as EQIP.

**Data Entry Point(s)**

Customer Service Toolkit  
PRS

**Data Steward (Business Area Expert)**

National Leader Animal Husbandry  
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**Current Contact:**

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***Measure: 2.12: Comprehensive nutrient management plans (CNMP) applied, number***

**Definition:** Comprehensive nutrient management plans (CNMPs) applied within the current fiscal year. Performance is reported in numbers.

**Strategic Plan Outcome:** The quality of surface waters and ground water is improved and maintained to protect human health, support a healthy environment, and encourage a productive landscape.

**Key Conservation Programs:**

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)  
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

**Calculation**

This measure is calculated as the number of CNMPs applied reported by program using practice code 100.

**Business Rules for PRS Reporting**

All conservation planning and application will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant agency policy and technical guidance, and using agency approved business tools to conduct these activities, as appropriate. The following business rules apply:

1. The performance reported under this measure is only for the fiscal year in which the performance is accomplished.
2. All required component practices have been applied and at least one of these practices was applied in the current fiscal year.

3. CNMPs Applied are counted only once toward this performance measure unless the plan is revised as a result of significant changes or revisions to the CNMP, a new plan approval date is assigned in Toolkit and PRS, and additional practices are applied.
4. When all CNMP component practices are installed, report as applied using CNMP practice code 100.
5. The Plan Approval Date is not required to be within the current fiscal year.

**Data Entry Point(s)**

Customer Service Toolkit  
PRS

**Data Steward (Business Area Expert)**

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***Measure: 2.13: Long-term contracts completed during the fiscal year (all measures installed) for the purpose of water quality improvement, number.***

**Definition:** Long-term contracts to improve water quality where all Contract Item Numbers were completed by the end of the fiscal year. Performance is reported in numbers.

**Strategic Plan Outcome:** The quality of surface waters and ground water is improved and maintained to protect human health, support a healthy environment, and encourage a productive landscape.

**Calculation**

This measure is calculated as the sum of long-term contracts completed within the fiscal year, i.e. all measures installed.

**Business Rules for PRS Reporting**

1. A contract Status Review is completed within the current fiscal year.
2. Closing forms are signed by contractee(s) and NRCS.
3. Payment made for practices installed and certified by NRCS.

**Data Entry Point(s)**

POINTS

**Data Steward (Business Area Expert)**

National Watersheds Program Leader  
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**Measure: 2.20: Land with conservation applied to improve irrigation efficiency, acres**

**Definition:** Land on which at least one selected conservation practice to improve irrigation water management has been applied during the fiscal year. All land uses are eligible, with one exception noted below (see Business Rule #6). Performance is reported in acres.

**Strategic Plan Outcome:** Water is conserved and protected to ensure an abundant and reliable supply for the Nation.

**Selected conservation practices:**

Practice (units)	Code		Practice (units)	Code
Above-Ground, Multi-Outlet Pipeline (ft); <i>Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline (ft) (430HH)</i>	431		Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface (ac)	443
Irrigation Canal or Lateral (ft)	320		Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery (no.)	447
Irrigation Water Conveyance (ft)	428 A - 428 C		Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline (ft)	430AA- 430GG
Irrigation Field Ditch (ft)	388		Irrigation Water Management (ac)	449
Irrigation Land Leveling (ac)	464		Pumping Plant (no.)	533
Irrigation or Regulating Reservoir (no.)	552		Salinity and Sodic Soil Management (ac); <i>Land Reconstruction, Brine Damaged Land (ac) (773); Soil Salinity Management – Nonirrigated (ac) (571)</i>	610
Irrigation Storage Reservoir (ac-ft)	436			
Irrigation System, Microirrigation (ac)	441			
Irrigation System, Sprinkler (ac)	442		Structure for Water Control (no.)	587

## **Calculation**

This measure is calculated as the land unit acreage in conservation plans where:

- at least one selected conservation practice was applied in the current fiscal year.
- all land uses are eligible with the exception that Pumping Plant (533) installation will only be counted toward this performance measure when it is applied on cropland or hay land.

## **Business Rules for PRS Reporting**

All conservation planning and application will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant agency policy and technical guidance, and using agency approved business tools to conduct these activities, as appropriate. The following business rules apply:

1. The acreage reported under this performance measure is only for the fiscal year in which the performance is accomplished.
2. The total land unit acreage is reported when one or more selected practices are applied on all or part of the land unit. Selected practices may have different measurement units (e.g., acres, number, feet, etc.) and may be placed on all or part of the land unit. To address this variability, the total acres of the land unit are counted toward the performance measure.
3. Land unit acreage is counted only once per program per fiscal year, although multiple selected practices may be applied.
4. Where more than one program is used to apply selected practices on the same land unit within a single fiscal year, each program is credited with the full land unit acreage.
5. Total acres reported in PRS Section 6 Reports reflect the unique land unit acreage where one or more selected conservation practices were applied during the fiscal year to improve irrigation efficiency.
6. All land uses are eligible with the exception that Pumping Plant (533) installation will only be counted toward this performance measure when it is applied on cropland or hay land.

## **Data Entry Point(s)**

Customer Service Toolkit  
ProTracts  
PRS

## **Data Steward (Business Area Expert)**

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***Measure: 2.21: Dams rehabilitated or removed, number.***

**Definition:** Dams that have been rehabilitated or removed to protect or improve public health and safety. Performance is reported in numbers.

**Strategic Plan Outcome:** Water is conserved and protected to ensure an abundant and reliable supply for the Nation.

**Calculation**

This measure is calculated as the number of dams rehabilitated or removed for which all planned implementation actions are complete, and the completion date is in the current fiscal year.

**Business Rules for PRS Reporting**

1. Dams rehabilitated or removed where all planned implementation actions are complete.
2. Completion date is in the current fiscal year.
3. Rehabilitation of dams pertains only to those impoundments constructed through Public Law 566 and Public Law 534.

**Data Entry Point(s)**

POINTS

**Data Steward (Business Area Expert)**

National Watershed Rehabilitation Manager  
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Current Contact:

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***Measure: 2.22: Dams with watershed rehabilitation plans authorized, number.***

**Definition:** The number of watershed rehabilitation plans that have been authorized. Performance is reported in numbers.

**Strategic Plan Outcome:** Water is conserved and protected to ensure an abundant and reliable supply for the Nation.

**Calculation**

This measure is calculated as the sum of watershed rehabilitation plans authorized within the current fiscal year.

**Business Rules for PRS Reporting**

1. Count only rehabilitation plans that have written authorization by the Chief, NRCS.

**Data Entry Point(s)**

POINTS

**Data Steward (Business Area Expert)**

National Watershed Rehabilitation Manager  
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Current Contact:

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***Measure: 2.23: Flood prevention or mitigation measures installed, including structures, easements, and other measures; number.***

**Definition:** Flood prevention or mitigation measures installed during the fiscal year for the purpose of flood damage reduction. Reportable measures include: structures, easements, or similar measures. Performance is reported in numbers.

**Strategic Plan Outcome:** Water is conserved and protected to ensure an abundant and reliable supply for the Nation.

**Calculation**

This measure is calculated as the sum of flood prevention or mitigation measures with installation completed in the current fiscal year.

**Business Rules for PRS Reporting**

1. Flood Prevention must be a Project Purpose in the Watershed Operations project record.
2. The measure installation must be completed within the current fiscal year.

**Data Entry Point(s)**

POINTS

**Data Steward (Business Area Expert)**

National Watersheds Program Leader  
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Current Contact:

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***Measure: 2.24: Multi-purpose water supply reservoirs installed, number.***

**Definition:** Dams and reservoirs installed for the primary purpose of water supply or flood control. Other benefits may include, but are not limited to, recreation and wildlife habitat. Performance is reported in numbers.

**Strategic Plan Outcome:** Water is conserved and protected to ensure an abundant and reliable supply for the Nation.

**Calculation**

This measure is calculated as the sum of dams and reservoirs installed where the principal purpose is water supply or flood control, and installation is completed within the current fiscal year.

**Business Rules for PRS Reporting**

1. The principal purpose for installation must be water supply or flood control.

**Data Entry Point(s)**

POINTS

**Data Steward (Business Area Expert)**

National Watersheds Program Leader  
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Current Contact:

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***Measure: 3.00: New plant materials released to commercial growers, number***

**Definition:** New conservation plant materials released to commercial growers. Performance is reported in numbers.

**Strategic Plan Outcomes:** Grassland, rangeland, and forest ecosystems are productive, diverse, and resilient. Working lands and waters provide habitat for diverse and healthy wildlife, aquatic species, and plant communities. Wetlands provide quality habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife, protect water quality, and reduce flood damages.

**Calculation**

This measure is calculated as the sum of new plant materials released to commercial growers within the current fiscal year.

**Business Rules for PRS Reporting**

1. New conservation plant materials must have a completed release notice and environmental evaluation, including all appropriate signatures, to be reported.
2. The release occurs within the current fiscal year.
3. Adequate quantities of seed or vegetative materials must be available to commercial growers at the time of release.

**Data Entry Point(s)**

PRS

**Data Steward (Business Area Expert)**

National Plant Materials Specialist  
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***Measure: 3.01: Plant materials technical documents prepared and transferred to customers, number.***

**Definition:** Technical documents about conservation plants or plant technology, published for distribution to the general public. Performance is reported in numbers.

**Strategic Plan Outcomes:** Grassland, rangeland, and forest ecosystems are productive, diverse, and resilient. Working lands and waters provide habitat for diverse and healthy wildlife, aquatic species, and plant communities. Wetlands provide quality habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife, protect water quality, and reduce flood damages.

**Calculation**

This measure is calculated as the total number of technical documents published that address conservation plants or plant technology and that are released within the current fiscal year.

**Business Rules for PRS Reporting**

1. For a document to qualify, citations must be included in the Plant Materials Operations and Management System (POMS) database.
2. The electronic file must be sent to the National Plant Materials Center for Web posting.
3. The release occurs within the current fiscal year.



**Data Entry Point(s)**

PRS

**Data Steward (Business Area Expert)**

National Plant Materials Specialist  
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Current Contact:

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***Measure: 3.10: Grazing and forest land with conservation applied to protect and improve the resource base, acres***

**Definition:** Grazing or forest land units on which at least one selected conservation practice has been applied to protect or improve the resource base during the fiscal year. Grazed range, grazed forest, native and naturalized pasture, pasture, and forest land uses are eligible. Performance is reported in acres.

**Strategic Plan Outcome:** Grassland, rangeland, and forest ecosystems are productive, diverse, and resilient.

**Selected conservation practices:**

Practice (units)	Code	Practice (units)	Code
Access Road (ft)	560	Recreation Area Improvement (ac)	562
Animal Trails and Walkways (ft)	575	Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats (ac)	643
Brush Management (ac)	314	Riparian Forest Buffer (ac)	391
Channel Bank Vegetation (ac)	322	Riparian Herbaceous Cover (ac)	390
Channel Stabilization (ft)	584	Salinity and Sodic Soil Management (ac); <i>Land Reconstruction, Brine Damaged Land (ac) (773); Soil Salinity Management – Nonirrigated (ac) (571)</i>	610
Critical Area Planting (ac)	342		
Early Successional Habitat Development (ac)	647		
Fence (ft)	382		
Firebreak (ft)	394	Spring Development (no.)	574
Forage Harvest Management (ac)	511	Stream Crossing (no.); <i>Stream Crossing (no.) (728)</i>	578
Forest Slash Treatment (ac)	384	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (ac)	395

Forest Stand Improvement (ac)	666	Streambank and Shoreline Protection (ft)	580
Forest Trails and Landings (ac)	655	Tree/Shrub Establishment (ac)	612
Fuel Break (ac)	383	Tree/Shrub Pruning (ac)	660
Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (ac)	548	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (ac)	490
Heavy Use Area Protection (ac); <i>Controlled Livestock Lounging Area (ac) (711)</i>	561	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (ac)	645
Hedgerow Planting (ft)	422	Use Exclusion (ac)	472
Irrigation System / Microirrigation (ac)	441	Waste Utilization (ac)	633
Mulching (ac)	484	Water and Sediment Control Basin (no.)	638
Nutrient Management (ac)	590	Water Well (no.)	642
Pasture and Hay Planting (ac)	512	Watering Facility (no.)	614
Pest Management (ac)	595	Wetland Creation (ac)	658
Pipeline (ft)	516	Wetland Enhancement (ac)	659
Pond (no.)	378	Wetland Restoration (ac)	657
Prescribed Burning (ac)	338	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (ac)	644
Prescribed Grazing (ac); <i>Prescribed Grazing (ac) (528A)</i>	528	Wildlife Watering Facility (no.)	648
Prescribed Forestry (ac)	409	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (ft)	380
Pumping Plant (no.)	533	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (ft)	650
Range Planting (ac)	550		

### Key Conservation Programs:

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

### Calculation

This measure is calculated as the land unit acreage in conservation plans where:

- at least one selected conservation practice was applied,
- the practice application date is within the current fiscal year, and
- the land use is grazed range, grazed forest, native and naturalized pasture, pasture, or forest.

### Business Rules for PRS Reporting

All conservation planning and application will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant agency policy and technical guidance, and using agency approved business tools to conduct these activities, as appropriate. The following business rules apply:

1. The acreage reported under this performance measure is only for the fiscal year in which the performance is accomplished.

2. The total land unit acreage is reported when one or more selected practices are applied. Selected practices may have different measurement units (e.g., acres, number, feet, etc.) and may be placed on all or part of the land unit. To address this variability, the total acres of the land unit are counted toward the performance measure.
3. Land unit acreage is counted only once per program per fiscal year, although multiple selected practices may be applied.
4. Where more than one program is used to apply selected practices on the same land unit within a single fiscal year, each program is credited with the full land unit acreage.
5. Total acres reported in PRS Section 6 Reports reflect the unique land unit acreage where one or more selected conservation practices were applied during the fiscal year to improve grazing and forest land resources.
6. Eligible land uses are grazed range, grazed forest, native and naturalized pasture, pasture, and forest.

**Data Entry Point(s)**

Customer Service Toolkit  
PRS  
ProTracts

**Data Steward (Business Area Expert)**

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USDA/NRCS  
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***Measure: 3.20: Non-Federal land with conservation applied to improve fish and wildlife habitat quality, acres***

**Definition:** Non-Federal land on which fish and wildlife habitat management practices have been applied in the fiscal year. Performance is reported in acres.

**Strategic Plan Outcomes:** Working lands and waters provide habitat for diverse and

healthy wildlife, aquatic species, and plant communities. Wetlands provide quality habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife, protect water quality, and reduce flood damages.

### **Calculation**

This measure is calculated as the sum of practice acreage on which any of the following conservation management practices were applied in the fiscal year: Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644), Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645), or Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (395). All land uses are eligible.

### **Business Rules for PRS Reporting**

All conservation planning and application will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant agency policy and technical guidance, and using agency approved business tools to conduct these activities, as appropriate. The following business rules apply:

1. Practice application date must be in the current fiscal year.
2. Non-Federal land includes private, State, and Tribal land and water bodies.
3. All land uses are eligible.

### **Data Entry Point(s)**

Customer Service Toolkit  
PRS

### **Data Steward (Business Area Expert)**

National Biologist  
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### ***Measure: 3.30: Wetlands created, restored, or enhanced, acres***

**Definition:** Wetlands creation (658), wetlands restoration (657), and wetlands enhancement (659) applied. Performance is reported in acres.

**Strategic Plan Outcome:** Wetlands provide quality habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife, protect water quality, and reduce flood damages.

### **Key Conservation Programs:**

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)  
Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)  
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

### **Calculation**

This measure is calculated as the sum of the practice acres applied by program in the current fiscal year for the following conservation practices: Wetland Creation (658), Wetland Restoration (657), or Wetland Enhancement (659).

### **Business Rules for PRS Reporting**

All conservation planning and application will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant agency policy and technical guidance, and using agency approved business tools to conduct these activities, as appropriate. The following business rules apply:

1. Conservation practices 657, 658, and 659 count toward this performance measure.
2. Practice application date must be within the current fiscal year.
3. All land uses are eligible

### **Data Entry Point(s)**

Customer Service Toolkit  
PRS

### **Data Steward (Business Area Expert)**

National Biologist  
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Current Contact:

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## ***Measure: 6.10: Farmland, forest land, and wetlands protected by conservation easement, acres***

**Definition:** Land under easement in which NRCS has acquired a property interest. Performance is reported in acres. Note: This measure does not include upland acres protected under the Wetland Reserve Program.

**Strategic Plan Outcome:** Connected landscapes sustain a viable agricultural sector and natural resource quality.

### **Calculation**

FRPP, GRP, and HFRP:

This measure is calculated for each program as the sum of all easement acres recorded at the courthouse in the current fiscal year.

WRP:

This measure is calculated as the sum of all wetland acres included in easements that were recorded at the courthouse in the current fiscal year.

### **Business Rules for PRS Reporting**

1. The easement recorded date determines the year that performance is reported.
2. Pending easements do not count toward this measure.
3. Acres for each easement should be entered separately.

4. For WRP, only wetland acres are included. Associated upland acres that may be part of the easement are not included in this measure.

#### **Data Entry Point(s)**

PRS

#### **Data Steward (Business Area Expert)**

Easement Programs Division  
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#### **Current Contacts:**

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Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP) Manager, acting  
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#### ***Measure: 6.11: Prime, unique, or important farmland protected by conservation easements from conversion to non-agricultural uses, acres***

**Definition:** Prime, unique or important farmland, as defined below, that is protected by conservation easements. Performance is reported in acres.

Prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing feed, fiber, forage, oilseed, and other agricultural crops with minimum inputs of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides and labor, without intolerable soil erosion, as determined by the Secretary.

Unique farmland is land other than prime farmland that is used for the production of specific high-value food and fiber crops, as determined by the Secretary. It has the special combination of soil quality, location, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high quality or high yields of specific crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods.

Important farmland is farmland of Statewide or local importance and is used for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, or oilseed crops. The appropriate State or local government agency determines Statewide or locally important farmland with concurrence from the State Conservationist.

**Strategic Plan Outcome:** Connected landscapes sustain a viable agricultural sector and natural resource quality.

#### **Calculation**

This measure is calculated as the sum the acres of prime, unique or statewide important soils protected by FRPP easements that were recorded at the courthouse in the current fiscal year. Each easement's acres should be entered separately.

#### **Business Rules**

1. The easement recorded date determines the year that performance is reported.
2. Pending easements do not count toward this measure.
3. Only count the acres of land in the easement that qualify as prime, unique, or statewide important farmland.
4. Acres for each easement should be entered separately.

#### **Data Entry Point(s)**

PRS

#### **Data Steward (Business Area Expert)**

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program National Leader  
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Current Contact:

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### ***Measure: 6.12: Land and water resources benefitted by RC&D projects, acres***

**Definition:** Land and water resources benefitted by RC&D land conservation, land management or water management projects. Performance is reported in acres.

**Strategic Plan Outcome:** Connected landscapes sustain a viable agricultural sector and natural resource quality.

#### **Calculation**

This measure is calculated as the sum of acres associated with active or completed RC&D projects under the following benefits categories:

- Acres Treated: Cropland
- Acres Treated: Grazing Land
- Acres Treated: Forestland

- Acres Treated: Mined or Reclaimed Land
- Agricultural Land Preserved or Protected
- Water Bodies Created
- Water Bodies Improved

### **Business Rules for PRS Reporting**

1. Project status in POINTS must be either active or completed in the current fiscal year.

### **Data Entry Point(s)**

POINTS

### **Data Steward (Business Area Expert)**

Leader, RC&D Team  
Resource Conservation, Development and Outreach Division  
14th and Independence Ave., SW  
Room 5243-S  
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Current Contact:

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### ***Measure: 6.13: Local businesses created or retained in rural communities, number***

**Definition:** Businesses created or retained through RC&D projects. Businesses created are businesses not in existence prior to RC&D assistance. Businesses retained are businesses established prior to RC&D assistance, for which RC&D assistance is used to retain it within the RC&D area. Businesses within the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors are eligible. Performance is reported in numbers.

**Strategic Plan Outcome:** Connected landscapes sustain a viable agricultural sector and natural resource quality.

### **Calculation**

This measure is calculated as the sum of new businesses created or businesses retained with RC&D assistance in the current fiscal year.

### **Business Rules for PRS Reporting**

1. Businesses are operational in the current fiscal year.
2. Businesses created or retained within the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors are eligible.

### **Data Entry Point(s)**

POINTS

### **Data Steward (Business Area Expert)**



Leader, RC&D Team  
Resource Conservation, Development and Outreach Division  
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